



MARYLAND'S OFFENDER POPULATION: THE UNTAPPED WORKFORCE

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The Division of Correction releases approximately 13,000 offenders annually to Maryland communities.

Preparing offenders for the inevitable transition from our facilities to their communities and families is crucial to the safety of the public, our employees, and the offenders under our jurisdiction



Preparing offenders for release will also provide potential employees.

To support this effort, the Department of Public Safety will launch the following efforts:



Expand key services provided to offenders during their incarceration, that according to research, reduces recidivism including

- Education
- Employment readiness/vocational skills
- Substance abuse treatment



Expand the number of offenders employed by plants operated by Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE)



- 30 business units
- employs 1600 offenders
- contributed \$74 million to Maryland's economy



Expand the private sector jobs in our prisons through the federally funded Prison Industries Enhancement (PIE) program.

PIE provides those industries that lack a core of workers the opportunity to meet its need for workers by using prison labor.



Expand interagency coordination efforts

- Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

 - Workforce Development System

 - Licensing Commission

- Department of Transportation

 - Motor Vehicle Administration

 - Maryland Transit Administration



Increase the number of offenders participating in public service activities throughout the state over the next year, and include

- Chesapeake Bay Restoration

- Oyster Bed Revitalization

- Habitat for Humanity

- Ameliorating blight in urban communities



What does this mean for the GWIB?

- preparing individuals to exit our prisons is not simply a public safety issue.
- programs and real life work during incarceration, help increase the pool of entry-level workers.
- stable employment, reduces crime, but makes Maryland's communities and economy stronger.